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DIRECTOR FRENCH DEAD.

Wm. Merchant Richardson French, Director of the Chicago Art Institute, who died in that city, June 3, was born at Exeter, N. H., in 1843. His parents were Henry Flagg and Anne Richardson French. He was educated in public schools and prepared at Phillips Exeter Academy for college. He entered Harvard in 1860 and graduated in 1864. His first occupations were landscapes gardening and civil engineering. He was always interested in art, and a student of art even while engaged in other pursuits. In 1872, he was already recognized as an able writer on scientific and art subjects. In 1874, he was a popular writer of art reviews, and a much sought lecturer on art subjects. When he came to Chicago, in 1878, he became secretary and manager of the Chicago Academy of Design which, in 1879, was reorganized in pursuance of Mr. French's efforts, and named the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. This name was changed, in 1882, to the Chicago Art Institute. At that time, Mr. French and Charles L. Hutchinson labored incessantly to develop art in Chicago. They were assisted by a few other men who gave time and money, but the unerring and determined constructive force of these two men led to the development of the Chicago Art Institute as it stands today.

Building Up the Institute.

The first radical evolution in possession of "quarters," was the building of a modest three-story structure at 73 East Van Buren St. The Institute occupied the two upper floors, and the first floor was rented to the Fortnightly Club. While occupying the position of active director in the increasing art school, Mr. French gave "chalk talks" as educational elements for societies and schools. He also lectured on other art subjects. His study and practice in architectural work made him especially proficient in the arrangement of an art museum, including a school, and it is greatly due to his broad knowledge in constructive work, as well as in theory, that the Institute of today, built in 1893, is what it is in gallery and school conveniences, as well as in the scope of its collections of various kinds.

Mr. French's methods were quiet, though forceful. He not only was general director, he was active in all things that pertained to the development of the Institute. He was a lecturer in the school until shortly before his last illness. Although he remained active, his strength was not equal to all other duties. Patience and kindness characterized all his work. Many struggling artists were helped to their success with his generosity. His devotion to art, and students of art, may be illustrated by the fact that although he was a civil engineer and qualified to earn a high salary, he was content to receive \$1,500 a year for the first ten years of his directorship. He did not measure his endeavors in behalf of Chicago's art by the price he got for them. Always on the alert for the best, and active for the acquirement, the Institute, today, and in whatever proportions it may attain, will be forever a monument to his memory.

In Harness to the Last.

As an illustration of his devotion to his work, even during the last days of his illness, he gave instructions for work in the Institute, sometimes in semi-delirium, sometimes quite rationally. The day before he died, he sent for one of the janitors and discussed some routine work with him. He sent for his stenographers and dictated instructions and correspondence, lucidly, to the very last of his life.

So discriminating was Director French, that he harmonized the smallest and largest of the Institute's activities; so accurate is his record of the Institute's affairs, that its history, has a definiteness seldom achieved or found in the history of municipal or corporate institutions. He made the Institute a fascinating social center as well as a center of art.

Mr. French was one of the founders and a charter member of the American Association of Museums. He was a member of the Union League Club; superintendent of the St. Paul's Church, Longwood, Sunday school for sixteen years; charter member and officer of the Chicago Literary Club, member of the Cliff Dweller's Club, and President of the Howard Association for the betterment of criminals. He was intensely religious but not the least dogmatic.

Director French, is mourned by artists in every State in the union, and many abroad,

and became the friend of many when they studied in the Institute school.

The Director's Funeral.

The funeral of the late Director, in Fullerton Hall, where he had lain in State, was a fitting tribute to the man who, for thirty-six years, gave his activities to the development of the now splendidly equipped art institute. There hundreds of his devoted comrades and friends assembled to do him a last honor.

There were two services, one at eleven o'clock for relatives and friends, another at noon for the "Art Institute Family," the employees and students of the museum. For an hour before the first service, Mrs. French was alone with her dead. Mr. French was clad in his college robes and the casket was environed and heaped with floral offerings. The Phillips Exeter Academy class of 1859 of which Mr. French was a member, sent a cluster of roses. Other tributes of flowers were from the Chicago Society of Artists, the trustees of the Minneapolis Art Museum and Mrs. F. B. Blackstone, the Western Alumni Association, the Cliff Dweller's

OBITUARY.**Gabriel Ferrier.**

Gabriel Ferrier died in Paris, June 6, age 67. He was a professor at the French National School of Fine Arts and a member of the Institute.

M. Ferrier was born in Nimes and educated at the School of Saint Louis. In 1872, he won the Grand Prix de Rome and shortly after was elected member of the jury of the Society of French Artists, member of the Committee of Ninety and became a professor at the Académie Julian. He was a member of the Free Society of French Artists and one of the committee of the Taylor Foundation. His principal works were landscapes and portraits, among them the admirable one of M. Chas. Sedelmeyer, Doyen of the Art trade, reproduced in Art News of May 30, and of the late George D. Widener, and of Miss Fifi Widener of Phila., hung in many of the galleries in France, among them the Luxembourg and Academy. He was a member of the Cercle de l'Union Artistique and the Cercle Volney.



THE LATE W. M. R. FRENCH.

Director of the Chicago Art Institute

Club, the Palette and Chisel Club, Mr. and Mrs. Lorado Taft, Mrs. Charles L. Hutchinson, the Municipal Art League, the Metropolitan Museum of New York, St. Paul's Church, and the Illinois Chapter of Phi Delta Theta.

Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus made the address at both services, and attributed to Mr. French "the perfect life" on account of his broad and many services for humanity. The Rev. Philip F. Matzinger, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church said the prayer. The guards of the Institute were the active pall-bearers, and the trustees of the Institute were the honorary pall-bearers. The interment was in Mount Greenwood Cemetery.

Museum Authority Departs.

Sir Charles Hercules Read, keeper of the British and Mediaeval antiquities and ethnography at the British Museum, who has recently spent a few weeks in this country, having come over to consult with Mr. J. P. Morgan, regarding his father's collections, has returned to England. He has recently been appointed Munro Lecturer for 1915, by the Edinburgh University Court.

Francois Pierre Roujon.

Henry Francois Pierre Roujon, permanent secretary of the French Academy of Fine Arts, died in Paris, June 1. He was born Sept. 1, 1853, was a Commander of the Legion of Honor and a director of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. His drawings appeared in "Le Figaro" and occasionally even in "Le Temps."

SUFFRAGE "FURY" ATTACKS GUARD

An attendant at the Dore Gallery, in London, almost lost his life on June 3rd, as the result of a savage attack made on him by a militant with a hatchet. She had already ruined two pictures in the gallery and was hacking a third picture, when the attendant, named Bourlet, seized her arm, and turned the shower of blows upon himself. One of the pictures destroyed was "Love Wounded," a priceless engraving by Bartolozzi. A picture by Romney of a boy in the Birmingham Gallery, was slashed by a militant last week.

Director Edward Robinson, of the Metropolitan Museum, will sail for Europe, June 20, to remain a couple of months.

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ARTISTS' SUMMER WANDERINGS.

W. B. Closson and Mrs. Closson are at their Summer studio at Magnolia, Mass. The former is busy getting ready for an exhibition of 30 to 40 of his paintings which Mr. Gentner, Director of the Worcester Art Museum has invited him to make in one of their large galleries from July 12 to Aug. 9.

F. Hopkinson Smith and Mrs. Hopkinson Smith sailed for Europe last Saturday on the "Imperator."

F. K. M. Rehn and family leave today for their Summer home and studio at Magnolia, Mass., where Mr. Rehn expects to complete three large canvases during the Summer and Autumn.

August Franzen sailed for Paris, where he expects to paint some portraits, on the "Aquitania" Wednesday last.

Jerome Myers has sailed for England on the "Olympic," May 30, accompanied by Mrs. Myers and their daughter, Virginia. Mr. Myers will spend some months in London and Paris studying the street types in those cities.

Brinton, Doctor of Letters.

In recognition of his scholarly and distinguished work in the field of art criticism, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (Litt. D.), was conferred upon Christian Brinton at the Haverford College Commencement, June 12. Dr. Brinton has been spending the past month at his country place in Chester County, Pa., but will shortly leave for an extended European trip including Germany, Russia and Austria. He will also visit the Venice exhibition.

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